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HECB names interim director

OLYMPIA-Ruta Fanning, deputy director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board, has been named interim executive director for the agency, effective September 1. Fanning will replace Marc Gaspard, who is leaving the agency at the end of August to join the private sector.

The 10-member citizen board has begun the process of finding a new executive director to lead the agency, which administers the state's student financial aid programs and provides planning, coordination, monitoring and policy analysis for higher education in Washington. The HECB executive director serves at the pleasure of the board.

Fanning, who has been deputy director for the HECB since July 2000, has a background in both state government and higher education. She joined the agency three years ago after serving as vice president for finance and administration at The Evergreen State College in Olympia.

Prior to her work with Evergreen, Fanning was director of the state Office of Financial Management, staff coordinator for both the House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means committees, and management and budget director for the state Department of Corrections.

Fanning holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Pacific Lutheran University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington. She has also completed the program for senior executives in state and local government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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